

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A negative electrode is disclosed for a non-aqueous electrochemical cell. The electrode has an intermetallic compound as its basic structural unit with the formula  $M_2M'$  in which M and M' are selected from two or more metal elements including Si, and the  $M_2M'$  structure is a  $Cu_2Sb$ -type structure. Preferably M is Cu, Mn and/or Li, and M' is Sb. Also disclosed is a non-aqueous electrochemical cell having a negative electrode of the type described, an electrolyte and a positive electrode. A plurality of cells may be arranged to form a battery.

1065230-120402